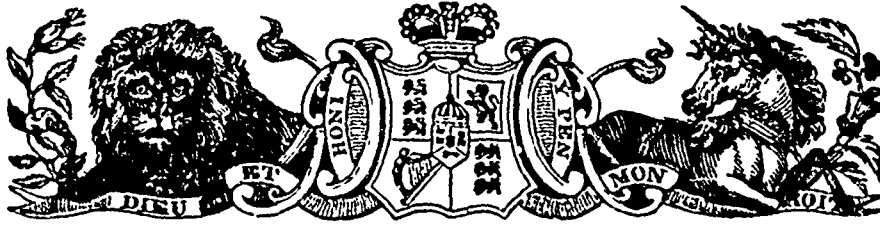


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THE SCIENCE OF WINTERING LIVE STOCK.

Four and a half years ago, when the last census was taken, the Live Stock of the nation was estimated at \$543,822,711. Since that time domestic animals have greatly increased in value, from an augmented demand for all their products. In a few localities, the injury sustained by the almost unprecedented drouth of the past summer and autumn, operated to depress the price of cattle, sheep and swine temporarily, from the scarcity of forage and other stock food. These exceptional cases do not, however, materially affect the general truth of the statement, that live stock is now worth about twenty-five per cent. more, on a fair average, per head, than it was five years ago. In many places good horses and mules have advanced full fifty per cent. in price; while good cows for milk, and superior breeding animals, have risen still higher in the best markets. Estimating the advance at twenty-five per cent., and the present value of our live stock, allowing for no increase of numbers, is \$679,478,389. The inhabitants of the United States increase from two and a half to three per cent. per annum, and their domestic animals in a somewhat larger ratio. At three per cent. a year, the aggre-

gate increase in numbers is nearly fifteen per cent.; but call it only twelve and a half per cent. and the live stock now in the country is worth the very large sum of \$764,413,187.

No other interest of half the importance has been so little studied in all its aspects; and in no other kind of property does the daily consumption of food present so many points for the exercise of wise economy, or for serious losses in consequence of bad management. A moment's reflection will satisfy every reader that inasmuch as domestic animals are large consumers as well as liberal producers, under favorable circumstances, they naturally exaggerate and extend both losses and profits, according to the skill or want of it with which they are propagated, reared and kept. Most kinds of property may be wintered and summered with little or no expense; not so, however, is the fact in reference to live stock. Hence, the Science of Wintering Domestic Animals involves questions of vast pecuniary importance; and it is a department of knowledge that peculiarly commends itself to the best attention of every farmer. He should carefully investigate the return which he is to realize for all the food consumed by each animal during the six most expensive months of the year, in which it is fed mainly by the hand of man. Will the compensation in labor, in flesh, wool, or in milk equal the outlay? Is the gain in any of these, or in all, what it ought to be to render this kind of husbandry really profitable? In what way should animals be fed and housed to yield the best possible return to the stock-grower? It is easy to answer this question by saying that they should be *well fed and well housed* to attain this end. But such remarks fail entirely to point out what is good feeding and good shelter, in the proper acceptation of those terms among stock-breeders and keepers. Some believe that it will not pay to provide warm stables, or even